Dear Parents, Students, Staff and Friends of the Magdalene Community,

Last Wednesday evening I had the pleasure of attending the Victor Chang Excellence in Science Awards. These Awards recognise Year 11 students, in the Camden local area, who have demonstrated the highest achievement in scientific studies throughout the year. This year two Magdalene students received the award. Congratulations Warwick Suters and Sophie Cornett for this recognition and their outstanding achievements throughout the year.

I remind parents that the Semester Two reports will be available on Monday December 13. I have had the opportunity to view most reports and they are certainly helpful to both students and parents in setting future directions. The reports will be followed by the upcoming Parent / Teacher / Student interviews. The interviews will give parents an opportunity to clarify any concerns and get a greater understanding of each child’s progress. The interviews will be conducted throughout the day on Wednesday 16 December from 8.30 – 3.00. I encourage parents to ensure that bookings are made early in order to obtain a suitable time.

Last Friday evening the final Spark retreat was conducted for the year. This retreat involved Year 7 and 8 students and was organised by Mr Pannell, Mr Elliott and student leaders from Year 10, 11 and 12. The experience allowed the Year 7 and 8 students to have a meaningful faith experience while enjoying the company of their peers. I thank Mr Pannell, Mr Elliott and the organising committee for providing students with such a great experience.

As we come to the end of the year there will be a number of staff changes taking place with teachers taking up new appointments or taking leave for extended periods. At the end of 2015 the following teachers will be leaving Magdalene:

- Mr Elliott (Principal Caroline Chisholm Catholic College, Glenmore Park)
- Mr Zakris (Year Coordinator Good Samaritan Catholic College, Hinchinbrook)
- Mr Pannell (Religious Education Coordinator St Joseph’s Catholic High School, Albion Park)
- Mr Boom (Holy Spirit High School, Bellambi)
- Mr Leydon (Tutoring)
- Mrs Agland (Maternity leave 2016)
- Mrs Duke (Maternity leave 2016)
- Mrs Tree (Maternity leave to September, 2016)
- Mrs Vannan (Completing her temporary contract)
- Ms Gloria Melham (Catholic Care Counsellor, St Benedicts College, 2016)

I wish all of the teachers well in their new positions or during their leave and sincerely thank each of them for their significant contributions to Magdalene.

Strong minds, gentle hearts
On December 8 this year (The Feast of the Immaculate Conception) we in the Catholic Church begin the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy. The 8th December 2015 is also the 50th anniversary of the closing of the Second Vatican Council. Pope Francis will open the door of St Peter’s Basilica to officially welcome the Jubilee Year. He has said that the door will become “a Door of Mercy through which anyone who enters will experience the love of God who consoles, pardons, and instils hope.” The Jubilee Year’s theme is: “Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.” A jubilee year is a special year called by the church to receive blessing and pardon from God and remission of sins. The Year of Mercy provides each of us with an opportunity to reflect on our lives and encourage mercy across our world in many varied ways.

**Lord Jesus Christ,**

you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father,

and have told us that whoever sees you sees Him.

Show us your face and we will be saved.

Your loving gaze freed Zacchaeus and Matthew from being enslaved by money;
the adulteress and Magdalene from seeking happiness only in created things;
made Peter weep after his betrayal,
and assured Paradise to the repentant thief.

Let us hear, as if addressed to each one of us, the words that you spoke to the Samaritan woman:

“If you knew the gift of God!”

You are the visible face of the invisible Father,

of the God who manifests his power above all by forgiveness and mercy:
let the Church be your visible face in the world, its Lord risen and glorified.

You willed that your ministers would also be clothed in weakness
in order that they may feel compassion for those in ignorance and error:
let everyone who approaches them feel sought after, loved, and forgiven by God.

Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with its anointing,
so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord,
and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor,
proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed,
and restore sight to the blind.

We ask this through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy,
you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever.
Amen.

*(Diocese of Wollongong Year of Mercy Prayer)*

It is with great sadness that I announce the tragic death of Mr Wayne Johnstone (father of Sarah Year 10) in a road accident last Thursday. I ask everyone to keep Mr Johnstone and his family in your thoughts and prayers at this very sad time. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

God Bless

Mr John Lo Cascio
Principal
On Friday the 27th of November Years 7 and 8 had an awesome time at the Spark Retreat. The theme surrounding this particular night was TBH, or To Be Honest. Activities and reflections surrounded the notion of online image and the role social media plays in our understanding of ourselves and others.

The night was filled with great fun including stuck in the mud, a treasure hunt, Kahoot quizzes and games. We also had time for quiet reflection and meditation particularly around the bonfire where students were asked to burn messages about what they want to change about their attitude towards life.

Overall the year 7 and 8 students came away from the night with closer friendships with those in their year group as well as some new friends. It was apparent that a great time was had by all.

A huge thank you to all the teachers and students who were involved in the running of the night and made it so special and of course to the year 7 and 8 students who made this Spark retreat very memorable.
The Year 8 Reflection Day run by Real Talk took place on Friday the 27th November 2015. It was a day that the students could reflect on what they have achieved so far and on life itself. The day was filled with life stories and fun activities. Students were eagerly involved with the activities of the day especially when it was boys against girls!!

After lunch the students were separated into their gender groups and the hosts, Matt and Justine, concentrated on presenting topics relating to the specific issues and influences of the genders. Videos, activities and more in-depth discussions took place.

By the end of the day students commented on what a great day they had and that they had learnt a lot. The Real Talk presenters also commented on what a great group of students the Year 8’s are and just how engaging they were.

Justine went on to say that the Magdalene students had been the best she has worked with so far this year!
The inaugural Magdalene Super Speller Competition was held this term and there were three rounds:

- **Round 1:** Best in Class
- **Round 2:** Best in Year Group
- **Round 3:** Whole School Super Speller Grand Final

The winners of the Best in Year Group were as follows:

- Year 7: Eva Lowry
- Year 8: Tara Dunlop
- Year 9: Natalia Lapa
- Year 10: Cooper O'Keefe
- Year 11: Jemma Smith

Congratulations to Jemma Smith in Year 11 who was our winner of the Super Speller Grand Final which was held on Wednesday 2nd December.

Congratulations to all of the students who participated in this competition.
SCHOOL ASSEMBLY Thursday 19 November
MISA RESULTS: Magdalene v St Patrick’s (Round 6)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPORT</th>
<th>WINNING SCHOOL</th>
<th>SCORE</th>
<th>MOST VALUED PLAYER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Girls Oz-tag</td>
<td>St Patrick’s</td>
<td>6-0</td>
<td>Some good play despite the loss. COACH: Mrs McAllister</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-12 Girls Volleyball</td>
<td>St Patrick’s</td>
<td>3-0</td>
<td>A fun time by the girls despite the loss. COACH: Mr Hewitt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Girls Basketball</td>
<td>St Patrick’s</td>
<td>58-6</td>
<td>A very tough game against a quality opposition. COACH: Mr Dowdell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mixed Tennis</td>
<td>Magdalene</td>
<td>12-4</td>
<td>Another great performance by our Tennis Team. Well done. COACH: Mr Cornett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Boys Basketball</td>
<td>Magdalene</td>
<td>12-7</td>
<td>A fantastic match with a strong team effort. COACH: Mr Dowdell</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MISA RESULTS: MISA FINALS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPORT</th>
<th>WINNING SCHOOL</th>
<th>SCORE</th>
<th>MOST VALUED PLAYER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 7 Boys Cricket</td>
<td>Magdalene</td>
<td>72-29</td>
<td>A great win by the team. MVP: Flynn with 20 not out plus a “hat-trick” and then an extra wicket on the next ball!! COACH: Mr Wright</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 8/9 Boys Cricket</td>
<td>John Therry</td>
<td>Loss</td>
<td>Tight bowling and aggressive batting kept our score to a minimum. A great season by the boys. COACH: Mr Beh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mixed Tennis</td>
<td>Magdalene</td>
<td>24-7</td>
<td>Another great performance by our Tennis Team to bring home the championship. Well done to all our players. COACH: Mr Cornett</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

YEAR 7 BOYS CRICKET WIN MISA FINAL

The Year 7 Boys' Cricket team had a convincing 72-29 win over Wollondilly Anglican in the final of the MISA competition.

The highlights of the game were some spectacular catches and a double hattrick by Flynn O'Keeffe who took 4/0. The boys have been unbeaten this term and thoroughly deserved their triumph.
Magdalene Students achievements at Pacific School Games

Congratulations to Sheree Farrell and Maddison Smith who recently attended the Pacific School Games with outstanding results. Sheree competed in swimming while Maddison was a valued member of the NSW Softball Team.

Sheree competed in the 1500m Freestyle gaining her best time of 17 minutes and 46 seconds and placing 4th overall. She also competed in the 12 x 50m relay event with the team finishing in 3rd place winning Bronze.

The NSW Softball Team finished in first place, winning gold and gaining the title of Pacific Champions. On top of this, Maddison was named MVP of the tournament and also named in the “All-Australian Team”.

These are great achievements by both girls and Magdalene is proud of their outstanding sporting efforts.
Maths Puzzle #13

Find a number with its letters in alphabetical order?

**Answer:** Forty

It is the only number we know of in English with its letters in alphabetical order. And that is the correct spelling.

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Maths Puzzle #14

According to the traditional song, on the first day of Christmas (25th December), my true love sent to me:

- A partridge in a pear tree

On the second day of Christmas (26th December), my true love sent to me THREE presents:
  - Two turtle doves
  - A partridge in a pear tree

On the third day of Christmas (27th December and so on) my true love sent to me SIX presents:
  - Three French hens
  - Two turtle doves
  - A partridge in a pear tree

This carries on until the twelfth day of Christmas, when my true love sends me:
  - Twelve drummers drumming
  - Eleven pipers piping
  - Ten lords a-leaping
  - Nine ladies dancing
  - Eight maids a-milking
  - Seven swans a-swimming
  - Six geese a-laying
  - Five gold rings
  - Four calling birds
  - Three French hens
  - Two turtle doves
  - A partridge in a pear tree

After the twelve days of Christmas are over, how many presents has my true love sent me altogether and what is the sum?
## NOTICEBOARD

### December
- **8 Tue**  Sports Award Assembly 9am
- **11 Fri**  End of Year Mass 9:30am
  All Welcome
- **14 Mon**  Presentation Day—St Gregory’s College 10am
- **15 Tue**  Activity Day
- **16 Wed**  P & T Interview Day
- **17 Thu**  Staff Development Day
- **18 Fri**  Staff Development Day

### January
- **21 Thu**  Office open 8am–2pm
- **22 Fri**  Office open 8am–2pm
- **27 Wed**  Office open 12noon–3:30pm
- **28 Thu**  Year 7 & Year 11 Commences
- **29 Fri**  Whole School Returns

### SECOND HAND UNIFORM SHOP

**2015**
- Friday 4 December  7.50am - 8.20am
- Monday 7 December  7.50am - 8.20am
- Friday 11 December  7.50am - 8.20am

**2016**
- Wednesday 27 January  2:00pm - 2:45pm
- Thursday 28 January  7:50am - 8:45pm
- Friday 29 January  7:50am - 8:00am

If you require second hand uniforms and are unable to make the above times please call Kelly O’Keeffe on 0410 553812

## CONGRATULATIONS

Erin Cato, Hannah Roberts and Jade Peroumal Year 7 students who have been selected for the Cheer Leaders Nationals to be held in Melbourne. We wish all three girls the best of luck.

Congratulations to Brooke Smith (Year 7) who competed in Bjelke Peterson Physical Culture National Championships. Well done Brooke on reaching the Finals.

### YEAR 7 Student Packs

Now available from the school office 7.30am to 2:45pm Mon-Fri
(Eftpos available)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School Bag</td>
<td>$75.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cap</td>
<td>$12.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calculator</td>
<td>$21.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apron</td>
<td>$7.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>$115.00</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Sport socks are compulsory, $6.00 per pair. Sizes 2-7, 8-11, 12-14*

### Canteen

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term 4 Week 9A 30 Nov-4 Dec</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30 Nov</td>
<td>1 Dec</td>
<td>2 Dec</td>
<td>3 Dec</td>
<td>4 Dec</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rochelle Bonning</td>
<td>Vanessa Crowe</td>
<td>Julie Smith</td>
<td>M Crowe</td>
<td>R Miller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Leonie Sanchez</td>
<td>Karen Tekely</td>
<td>Anita Jerak</td>
<td>K Boldwell</td>
<td>A Keshan</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term 4 Week 10B 7 Dec—11 Dec</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7 Dec</td>
<td>8 Dec</td>
<td>9 Dec</td>
<td>10 Dec</td>
<td>11 Dec</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kath Shepherd</td>
<td>K Foden</td>
<td>Agatha Lim</td>
<td>B Colusso</td>
<td>L Miller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Megan Tyler</td>
<td>Tanya Debono</td>
<td>Jerry Berrenger</td>
<td>R Joyce</td>
<td>L McGuire</td>
</tr>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term 4 Week 11A 14 Dec-18 Dec</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No Canteen facilities</td>
<td>No Canteen facilities</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MAGDALENE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL**

"Because I have seen the Lord"

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